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Photos Used in Effort to Prove No Offensive Arms Are on Island

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WASHINGTON — The Kennedy administration produced a barrage of previously top-secret evidence Wednesday in an attempt to prove that all offensive Soviet weapons have been removed from Cuba.

In an unprecedented nationwide revelation of U.S. intelligence procedures, Defense Department officials displayed dozens of aerial reconnaissance photographs and charts in an effort to silence criticism that the administration is downgrading the Soviet menace on the island.

"I believe beyond all reasonable doubt," Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara declared at the outset of

Partial transcript of press conference begins on Page 3, Part 1.

the hurriedly arranged, nationally televised press conference, "that all offensive weapons systems have been removed from the island and none have been reintroduced."

He noted that charges to the contrary have been circulated "in the press and elsewhere" but cited the photographic evidence obtained from 1,000 reconnaissance flights since July 1 that there has been no offensive buildup since the Cuban crisis in October.

Pictorial Account

John F. Phares, an officer of the defense intelligence agency, narrated an 80-minute detailed pictorial account of the Soviet buildup in Cuba prior to the October missile crisis and of the dismantling and debarkation of offensive weapons since that time.

He said all nine offensive missile batteries that existed in Cuba have been dismantled.

"There is no evidence whatever of any effort on the part of the Soviets or the Cubans to re-establish them," Hughes said.

Backed by McCone

At the same time, John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said much the same thing in a statement before the Senate preparedness sub-

committee. Although McNamara conceded under questioning that the televised report could do harm to the nation's intelligence network, he said the administration felt an urgency to inform the American people about the situation in Cuba.

That urgency presumably grew out of a series of accusations made by members of Congress that the administration is not giving the nation a full disclosure of the Soviet military presence in Cuba.

Among the critics whom McNamara indirectly answered were Sen. Kenneth Keating (R-N.Y.), Sen. Strom Thurmond (D-S.C.) and Rep. Donald Bruce (R-Ind.).

The Cabinet officer denied Bruce's assertion that more than 40 Soviet offensive missiles remain in Cuba and Keating's claim that medium range missile bases are being maintained there.

17,000 Russians Remain

To Thurmond's charge that there are 30,000 to 40,000 Soviet military personnel in Cuba, McNamara had this reply: Soviet troops and technicians hit a peak of 22,000 on Nov. 1, but about 5,000 have departed Cuba, leaving approximately 17,000 Russians on the island.

Among these 17,000, he explained, are 5,000 soldiers who make up four Soviet combat units.

McNamara also reported that 102 Soviet fighter-interceptor planes remain in Cuba. Among these planes are 42 MIG-21s which can be equipped to carry nuclear

But, the secretary assured the nation, these planes—loaded with nuclear bombs—would have such a short mission range that they could not even reach the tip of Florida.

Surveillance Data

In a wrap-up of U.S. surveillance disclosures, Hughes made these points:

1—All Soviet medium and intermediate range ballistic missile bases in Cuba have been demolished and weapons and equipment shipped home to Russia.

2—All IL-28 bombers also have been dismantled and returned to the Soviet Union.

3—Approximately 5,000 Soviet soldiers and technicians have sailed back to their homeland.

4—Only defensive weapons and about 17,000 Russian personnel remain on the island.

5—The United States is continuing intensive surveillance of the island.

McNamara denied absolutely the suggestion by a reporter that the United States has been

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